Unemployment scenario

851. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the present unemployment scenario;

(b) the growth of unemployment since introduction of the structural reforms; and

(c) the details of the effective steps taken by Government to increase employment opportunities especially in the public sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) and (b) As per the latest (1999-2000) Labour Force Survey conducted by the National Sample Survey Organisation, out of a labour force of 406 million around 397 million were employed and the remaining 9 million were unemployed as per the Usual Status Approach. The total number of unemployed which was of the order 7.5 million during 1993-94 has marginally gone up to 9 million during 1999-2000.

(c) The Ninth Plan had accorded priority to agriculture and rural development with a view to generating adequate productive employment and eradication of poverty. The Plan had focused on sectors, sub-sectors and technologies which are labour intensive, in regions characterized by higher rates of unemployment and under-employment. The approach to the Tenth Plan has recognized the importance of providing gainful high quality employment to the additions to the labour force and it is listed as one of the monitorable objectives for the Tenth Plan and beyond. The growth strategy for the Tenth Plan would lay emphasis on rapid growth of the those sectors which are likely to create high quality employment opportunities.

Agricultural workers in Punjab

†852. SHRIMATI GURCHARAN KAUR: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) Whether Government have conducted any survey for determination of the existing number of the agricultural workers in Punjab;

(b) if so, the details thereof in respect of male, female and child labourers, separately; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) the rate of minimum wages prescribed for them and the manner in which it is implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) and (b) The Government has not conducted any specific survey to know the extent of agricultural labourers in Punjab. However, as per provisional results of Census 2001, the number of agricultural labourers in Punjab is 1498976 comprising 1119558 male and 379418 female workers. The information regarding the number of children working as agricultural labour is not available.

(c) The minimum wages fixed for agricultural labourers in Punjab are Rs.74.09 (with meal per day) or Rs. 83.79 (without meal per day). The implementation is effected through the enforcement machinery of the state Government.

Number of unemployed persons

†853. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN' :
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of unemployed persons is increasing in the country as per the data available with the Planning Commission, regarding the number of unemployed persons;

(b) if so, the number of unemployed persons in the each month of March during the years 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001; and

(c) the estimated number of unemployed persons during March, 2002 on the basis of the average annual growth rate of unemployment during the last years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) and (c) Estimates of employment and unemployment are obtained through labour force surveys conducted by National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) from time to time. As per the surveys conducted during 1993-94 and 1999-2000 (latest survey), the number of unemployed persons has marginally gone up from 75 lakh in 1993-94 to 90 lakh in 1999-2000 as per Usual Status Approach. The number of unemployed in future will depend on

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.